Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 02099 160936Z ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W

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UNCLAS ACCRA 2099

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BEXP GH

SUBJECT: WTDR/FTI: TECHNICAL TRADING CO.

REF: USDOC 02266

1. GHANA

OFFICE USE: 2.749 3. 0019000 4. 01 5. TECHNICAL TRADING CO.

6. P.O. BOX 4238; F-799/2 OFF CANTONMENTS RD., OSU

7. ACCRA

8. CONTACT: MR. NASIB DAHABIEH 9. TITLE: GENERAL MANAGER 10. PHOLE: 74310 11. TELEX: N/A

12. CABLE: TETRA ACCRA

13. ESTABL: 1960 14. EMPL: N/A 15. SIZE: MEDIUM 16. REPUTATION: Y-GOOD 17. RPT DATE: 03/78 OFFICE USE: 18. N/A 19. N/A 20. N/A 21. N/A 22. N/A

23A. 28510/235 AGT DIST IMP. OF PAINTS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS;

 $23B.\ 32111/235\ SHEET\ GLASS;\ FURNITURE\ AND$

23C. 34290/235 BUILDERS' HARDWARE; HAND AND

23D. 34230/235 EDGE TOOLS; PLUMBING FIXTURES,

23E. 34300/235 FITTINGS AND HEATING EQUIPMENT:

23F. 35460/235 POWER-DRIVEN HAND TOOLS; AND

23G. 36300/235 ELECTRIC HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES.

23H. 35850/235 AGT DIST IMP. OF REFRIGERATION AND AIR

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CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT; ALSO

23I. 36400/35 IMP DIST OF ELECT. LIGHTING AND WIRING

23J. 36130/35 EQUIPMENT; SWITCHGEAR AND SWITCHBOARD

23K. 34960/35 APPARATUS; AND OF MISC. FABRICATED WIRE PRODUCTS

24. FOREIGN SALES: LOCAL ONLY

25. FINANCIAL REFS: BARCLAYS BANK OF GHANA LTD., HIGH ST. BRANCH,

P.O. BOX 69, ACCRA; GHANA COMMERCIAL BANK, TUDU BRANCH, P.O. BOX

819, ACCRA

26. TRADE REFS: PPG INDUSTRIES, COATINGS AND RESINS DIVISION, ONE GATEWAY CENTER, PITTSBURGH, PA. 15222; EBCO MFC. CO., 265 N.

HAMILTON RD., COLUMBUS, OH. 43213

27. FOREIGN FIRMS REPRESENTED: N/A

28. POST EVALUATION: FIRM IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF FOREIGN-OWNED COMPANTES THAT WERE SEVERELY AFFECTED BY THE 1970 GHANAIAN BUSINESS PROMOTION ACT WHICH RESERVED CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF BUSINESS TO INDIGENOUS ENTERPRENEURS. AFFECTED BUSINESSES INCLUDE RETAIL AND SMALL-SCALE WHOLESALE TRADE IN WHICH SUBJECT COMPANY HAD BEEN ENGAGED FOR OVER 10 YEARS PRIOR TO ENFORCEMENT OF THE ACT. ALTHOUGH TECHNICAL TRADING CO. WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REORGANIZED TO CONFORM WITH THE NEW LAW, IT BECAME VIRTUALLY DORMANT IN 1974 DUE LARGELY TO IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND STRICT LICENSING CONTROLS. CONSEQUENTLY, THE GENERAL MANAGER AND MAJORITY STOCKHOLDER, WENT TO THE MIDDLE-EAST (BEIRUT, LEBANON) WHERE HE HAS A SIMILAR OPERATION. HE RETURNED TO GHANA RECENTLY AND INFORMED US THAT HE PLANS TO REACTIVATE THE GHANAIAN FIRM AND ITS AFFILIATE (TETRA INDUSTRIES) WHICH IS SETTING UP A PLANT TO ASSEMBLE AIR CONDITIONERS AND REFRIGERATORS. HIS PLANS INCLUDEE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AMERICAN TYPE SHOPPING CENTER NEAR DOWNTOWN ACCRA. IN SPITE OF ITS RECENT LIMITED ACTIVITIES, TECHNICAL TRADING CO. CONTINUES TO ENJOY GOOD REPUTATION LOCALLY; OWNERS ARE WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO EMBASSY, AND RECOMMENDED AS SUITABLE TRADE CONTACT FOR U.S. FIRMS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT GHANA SUFFERS SEVERE FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONSTRAINT; IMPORT LICENSING AND LETTERS OF CREDIT UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. EVEN FOR GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED COMPANIES.

FIRMS WITH THE BEST CREDIT RATING MUST REMIT UNDER LETTERS OF CREDIT, SINCE OTHERWISE THEY CANNOT USUALLY TRANSFER FUNDS ABROAD.

29. PREP: PETER A. HENNISON APPR: ALBERT L. GLAD. SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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